

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting HBV attachment to a hepatic cell, the method comprising ~~the step of~~ exposing the cell to a polypeptide capable of binding the preS1 region of HBV and having an amino acid sequence at least 90% homologous to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4 as determined using the Bestfit software of the GCG package set with a gap creation penalty of 50 and a gap extension penalty of 3, ~~recombinant urine-derived protein, said recombinant urine-derived protein being capable of binding to a purified HBV-derived polypeptide~~ thereby inhibiting HBV attachment to a hepatic cell.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said polypeptide is as set ~~fourth~~ forth in SEQ ID NO: 4 ~~or portions thereof.~~

5-8. (Cancelled)